



State of Tennessee

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to commend Mary Ella Tidwell Vaughn of Adamsville for her many years of distinguished community service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ella Tidwell Vaughn is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a longtime community activist in her hometown of Adamsville, Tennessee, Mary Ella Tidwell Vaughn is the daughter of John J. and Artie C. Tidwell and the sister of James Tidwell and Johnnie Caperton; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Mrs. Vaughn received a degree in Home Economics and began her professional career as a home demonstration agent in Dyersburg, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it was in Dyersburg where she met her future husband, Grady Vaughn, who was employed as the assistant manager of the J.C. Penney Store located there. The young couple made Dyersburg their home until the outbreak of World War II, when Mr. Vaughn was called into military service, and she returned to her hometown of Adamsville; and

WHEREAS, after the war the Vaughns owned and operated Vaughn's Department Store in Adamsville, and for a while Mary Ella Vaughn also taught home economics for the McNairy County School System; and

WHEREAS, a former state president of the Retired Social Workers Association, Mary Ella Vaughn considers the most rewarding job she ever held to be her fifteen-year tenure with the Tennessee Department of Human Services as an employee within the protective services for children and adults area, working with the foster care system and those families who wanted to adopt children; and

WHEREAS, after her retirement Mrs. Vaughn continued her community involvement, serving as president of the Adamsville PTA and working with other Adamsville civic leaders to recruit new industry and physicians to the community; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Lions Club, Mary Ella Vaughn also worked closely with other Adamsville merchants in the sponsorship and organization of annual horse shows held in the city for more than six decades; and

WHEREAS, a fifty-year member of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Vaughn is a charter member of First Baptist Church Adamsville which she served faithfully for many years as treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughn was a member of the local Canasta Club, which met regularly for more than fifty years to play cards at each others' homes. Today, she continues to meet with other senior citizens at the McNairy County Senior Center in Adamsville; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ella Vaughn is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, a devoted wife and mother, Mary Ella and husband Grady had five children, the late Leon Grady Vaughn, Jr., Joseph Tidwell Vaughn, Cindy Thrasher, Mitzi Robison Sherrill and Gary Vaughn; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ella Tidwell Vaughn is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Mary Ella Tidwell Vaughn for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

ADOPTED: May 11, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE